Sl.No.	Service Area	M/s BSNL	M/s.RIL
16.	Tamil Nadu	1424	1769
17.	Uttar Pradsh(East)	2210	4721
18.	Uttar Pradesh(West)	434	3183
19.	West Bengal	1072	4542
	TOTAL	24794	21459

PCO Connections at Panchayat level in Chhattisgarh

†310. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that great diffculty is being faced in getting a PCO connection at Panchayat level in the rural areas of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that irregularities are being committed in the quality of telephone instrument while providing a new connection; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) yes, Sir. This is mainly on account of non-availability of Fixed Wireless Telephone (FWT) instruments which are likely to be supplied shortly.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Optic Fibre Link to Pakistan

311. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend optic fibre link to Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The International Long Distance Service Licensees are free to extend Optic Fibre Link to any country including Pakistan subject to necessary clearance. However, no licensee has sought clearance for laying Optic Fibre Link to Pakistan.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Loss of revenue due to surrender of phones

312. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of surrendered and disconnected phones of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. has crossed 50 lakhs during the last two financial years;

(b) the details thereof and loss of revenue in view of the surrender and disconnection of phones;

(c) the number of consumers who have surrendered their fixed line telephones all over the country since the inception of cellular phone services; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation and safeguard the interest of the employees in both the organizations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of surrendered and disconnected phones of BSNL and MTNL during the last two financial years are furnished below:-

In Lakh

Year	BSNL (Surrenders/ Disconnections)	MTNL (Surrenders/ Disconnections)
2002-03	17.93	4.67
2003-04	32.60	9.76